AHIP-D-9
6 March 1958

INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sub-Committee on Information Processing

A PROPOSAL FOR A CENTRAL INFORMATION AND ADVISORY
SERVICE ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
ACTIVITIES IN INFORMATION PROCESSING

1. The attached draft was prepared by the Head, Office of Scien-
tific Information, National Science Foundation, after consultation with
a number of agencies of government which have an interest in the field
of information processing.

2. As Chairman of your committee, I undertook to solicit the
comment of the IAC agencies on the proposal. Please study it care-
fully, and, to the extent possible solicit the views within your
shop of other interested parties.

3. Please add this as number 5 to the agenda (AHIP-A-50) for
the next meeting, which is scheduled for 20 March.

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Paul A. Borel
Chairman

Attachment

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Discussions with representatives of various government agencies
during the past two months have resulted in some ideas on measures
that would help to bring about more cooperation and coordination
among agencies supporting and/or conducting research and development
on information processing.

It seems to be the consensus that it would be desirable to have
collected in one central place information about research and develop-
ment in progress and proposed work that is being considered, and also
that it would be helpful to be able to obtain from such a center
objective advice and assistance in evaluating proposals and the
results of research and development. Such a center might be asked
to assume responsibility for the following tasks:

(1) The maintenance of up-to-date information on the current
and proposed research and development activities of all Federal
agencies in the field of information processing. The agencies would
supply the center with copies of proposals under consideration,
descriptions of research and development projects in progress, and
copies of progress and final reports issued. Insofar as possible
the Center would also maintain up-to-date information on related

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activities of other organizations, outside government. Research and development activities in this field include fact-finding studies or systems analysis of communication patterns and practices and of requirements for improved information-handling systems; study and design of systems for organizing information for storage or search; development of systems for automatic translation from one natural language to another; design and construction of equipment for input, storage, search, translation and output of information; experimental operation and evaluation of systems and equipment; and potentially related research in such fields as linguistics, applied linguistics, logic, information theory, coding theory, and psychology, including learning theory and artificial intelligence.

(2) The provision of technical advice upon request to Federal agencies, including assistance in evaluating research and development proposals and the progress and results of individual projects and broad programs in this field. Such assistance would be based on the judgment of technically competent staff at the Center and careful study of the data supplied to the central information file described above.

(3) The furnishing of requested advice to researchers and Federal agencies on the use of machines as aids in information research, and the provision of assistance to researchers both within and outside the government in locating available machine facilities

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and the programming assistance and other help needed in order to test their theories and proposed systems on machines. The Center would also collect and make available complete texts and bibliographic or other "source" data in machinable form for use in research.